



# Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

## *Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Wilmington, DE*

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) was selected to receive a job training grant. DNREC's focus for this grant is on Wilmington's inner-city residents, primarily



### Job Training Grant

**\$141,764**

EPA has selected the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control for a job training grant. DNREC plans to graduate 100 students with full training, place at least 70 graduates in environmental positions, and track them for at least one year. The 126-hour curriculum includes construction safety, outreach, forklift operator, and brownfields environmental course work and will lead to HAZWOPER, asbestos worker, lead worker, and forklift operator certifications. The Delaware Tech Industrial Training Department's Environmental Technology Institute will conduct the training at its facilities in and near Wilmington. Undereducated and underemployed residents will be recruited from inner city neighborhoods impacted by brownfields. Two community development corporations will develop job banks. To provide additional employment opportunities, DNREC is networking with public-private agencies that have considerable influence over the cleanup and redevelopment of properties in Wilmington.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team  
215-814-3246

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
302-395-2636

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

in the Southbridge and East Wilmington neighborhoods (combined population 8,000), which are heavily impacted by brownfields. Over 25 percent of the municipal land in Wilmington (population 72,664) is occupied by brownfields due to the loss of the city's central manufacturing and employment base that once sustained over 200 years of shipbuilding, rail car manufacturing, steel mills, tanneries, incinerators, and other industries. Southbridge and East Wilmington are predominately African-American neighborhoods with poverty rates of 18 percent and the highest unemployment rates in the city. Nearly 200 brownfields already have been identified in close proximity to the city's most impoverished residents. Demand for local environmental technicians has been spurred by the city's receipt of a brownfields assessment grant.